

AGENDA FOR SPECIAL MEETING OF COMMISSION
HELD IN BATON ROUGE ON NOVEMBER 4, 1965

1. Rep. Womack's comments on closure of doe season (1)
2. Mr. Yancey's " " " (2)
3. Mr. Herring's " " " (4)
4. Madison Parish telegram opposing doe season (4)
5. Morehouse Parish resolution opposing doe season (5)
6. Rep. Mike Hogan's comments (5)
7. Rep. Lyons' comments (5)
8. Mr. Lewis Beglis, Calcasieu Parish Juror comments (6)
9. Mr. Richard Fleming's comments (6)
10. Mr. Charley Bosch's comments (6)
11. Mr. Arthur Darnsteadt's comments (6)
12. Mr. Frank Adams' comments (6)
13. Mrs. Jim Johnson, representing Archery Assn. comments (7)
14. Telegrams from various organizations read (7)
15. Resolution that no changes will be made in
schedule (9)

PROCEEDINGS OF SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
LOUISIANA WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 4, 1965

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A special meeting of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission was held on Thursday, November 4, 1965, at 10:00 A.M., in the auditorium of the State Library, Baton Rouge, Louisiana to discuss the hunting season regulations.

Members present at this meeting were:

Jimmie Thompson, Chairman

H. B. Fairchild, Vice-Chairman

A. J. Buquet

John Edwin Kyle Jr.

Hobson Norris

H. Clay Wright

Absent:

John Paul Crain

Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and Representative Lantz Womack of Franklin Parish asked for the floor.

Representative Womack presented a resolution of the Franklin Parish Police Jury requesting that there be a NO DOE SEASON in the Game Management Areas of his Parish. He stated he wanted to save the deer and prevent the killing of doe deer

in the Game Management Areas in his Parish and spoke at length about closing the doe season. He threatened that if his demands were not met, the Commission would have a hard time getting operating money from the State, since he was a member of the Budget Committee, and that some of the biologists' jobs would also be in jeopardy if the season was not changed. He further added that no cases would be made in his Parish for game law violators. He said he had just talked to the judge in his parish and that no fines would be meted out for game law violators unless the season was closed. He stated the people of his parish and the Police Jury want to put a stop to the wholesale slaughtering of doe deer; that there were no deer left and that he had lost confidence in the reports of the biologists. He stated he had only killed one deer in 16 years and the people of his parish wanted to save the deer.

Mr. Yancey stated that the deer herds throughout Louisiana were in better shape than ever before and that as a result of the Commission's restocking program, huntable populations are now present in 90% of our deer ranges in Louisiana. He further stated that 25,000 to 26,000 deer were bagged by hunters last season and that this was more deer than we had in the entire State in 1930. The deer kill in 1950 was estimated at only 5,000 for Louisiana, and it has increased 5-fold in 15 years by the Commission's excellent deer

management program. He stated that the deer management efforts had, as a whole, been extremely successful as evidenced by these figures.

Mr. Yancey stated the Commission had appointed a Deer Committee, comprised of Mr. Thompson, Mr. Buquet, Mr. Fairchild and Mr. Norris, early in 1965, and that this Committee had made an intensive study of all factors relating to the setting of the deer hunting regulations; that it had met with all the Police Juries who had problems they wanted to discuss with them; that they had met with the officials of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, interested sportsmen, and had held a 2-day meeting with the biological staff of the Commission to consider their recommendations for the deer seasons. Further, the Commission held a 2-day Public Hearing, in Alexandria, in June, to hear the recommendations from all interested sportsmen and hunters of the State with reference to the hunting regulations, including deer. This represented the most intensive study ever made by the Commission in setting of the seasons on any given species of game, and he felt that an excellent job was done.

Mr. Yancey further stated that to change the season this late after it had been announced by news releases, in the Louisiana Conservationist, and the 250,000 pamphlets that had been distributed, would create a last minute chaotic condition

for the sportsmen of the State who had purchased their licenses and planned their vacations based on the seasons as announced by the Commission, and he recommended that no changes be made.

Mr. Joe Herring, Chief, Fish and Game Division, then stated that either sex deer seasons had been held on the Game Management Areas since 1959; that all information gathered to date on the results of these seasons had proven that they were very beneficial from the standpoint of maintaining healthy deer herds and allowing a proper harvest. He then produced several graphs outlining the kill of each of the Game Management Areas since they were first opened and the hunter success; also deer herd estimates for each of the Game Management Areas were illustrated. It was shown that in spite of the either sex seasons that have been held, the kills have increased each year, proving that these hunts are not harmful to the maintenance of a good deer population.

The following telegram from Mr. Andrew Yerger, President of the Madison Parish Police Jury, was read:

"Madison Parish Police Jury is very much opposed to a Doe Season in any area of Madison Parish."

The following resolution from the Morehouse Parish Police Jury was read:

"BE IT RESOLVED that, WHEREAS, the resident deer hunters of Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, have made known the fact that they oppose open season for hunting illegal deer,

"AND, WHEREAS, Morehouse Parish Police Jury feels that it could best serve the interests of the deer hunters of Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, by preserving doe deer so as to increase the herd and provide better hunting,

"NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Police Jury of Morehouse Parish, Louisiana, that they do strongly oppose the hunting of illegal deer in any part of Morehouse Parish, including the Georgia Pacific Game Management Area and that portion of Russell Sage Game Management Area, which is located in Morehouse Parish.

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable John McKeithen, Governor, Honorable Joe Hair, Director, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, Honorable Spencer Myrick, Senator and Honorable James McCormack, Representative."

Senator Jesse Knowles of Calcasieu Parish was unable to attend the meeting and sent the following telegram:

"Urge Commission not to make any changes in deer season this year. Fully support your judgment. Regret cannot be present for this important meeting."

Representative Mike Hogan, of Calcasieu Parish, opposed Rep. Womack's position. He said he was getting tired every year to find that at the last minute the regulations had been changed. He said the Commission should not change the seasons after they are set as this would be a waste of time, money and effort.

Rep. Lyons, of Calcasieu Parish, said the setting of the seasons should be left to the biologists of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission and he stated the seasons should not be changed. He said that he would introduce

legislation at the next session of the Legislature to change the law giving the Police Juries season-changing powers.

Mr. Lewis Beglis, Police Juror from Calcasieu Parish, said he believed only the Commission should set the hunting seasons, and should not make changes once they are set.

Mr. Richard Fleming, former Member of the Commission and member of the Caddo Parish Police Jury, said he was not in favor of changing the seasons. He said if the Commission changes the deer seasons in one parish, seasons will have to be changed in other parishes as well because the seasons are Statewide. He said - "I hope to see the day when Police Juries have nothing to do with the setting of the seasons. We have enough to do without that."

Mr. Charley Bosch, Executive Director of the Louisiana Wild Life Federation, said it was untimely to make any changes at this late date and said he was shocked at the remarks of Rep. Womack. He said everyone should work with the Commission and the Biologists - - not against them.

Mr. Arthur Darnsteadt, representing the Calcasieu Rod and Gun Club, stated he was opposed to changing the deer season.

Mr. Frank Adams, outdoor writer for the Lake Charles American Press, said he was representing the Calcasieu Rod and Gun Club and was talking as a private citizen. He

said the seasons should not be changed. He felt that much time, money and effort was spent in setting the hunting seasons. Mr. Adams said - - "This is the first time I ever heard a man who has taken an oath to uphold the law to advocate open defiance of the law. I have heard of the State budget being held as a blackjack before, but I don't think this Commission is afraid".

Mrs. Jim Johnson, representing the Archery Association, said she feels the Commission should have full authority in setting seasons and no changes should be made at this time.

The following telegrams were also read out of the 30 or more received:

"You have already set the deer season. The hunters in our area are tickled with them. We believe in the Game Biologists recommendation. Please leave the season alone.

(Signed) Red River Bowmen
S. T. Losey, Vice-President."

"Deer hunting regulations already promulgated and citizens acting accordingly. Respectfully request that no change be made this year in these regulations.

(Signed) Senator Jackson B. Davis
25th District"

"Pleading not to take away doe hunting in State of Louisiana.

(Signed) Bayou Bowmen, Sulphur, La.
Secretary Bobby Alston
President Clyde Eccles
Vice-President Shelton Pitre"

"For the sake of our wildlife please back up our dedicated biologists and keep politics out of our wildlife program. The biologists are responsible for the deer herd in our area so why would they want to destroy same. Don't bow to political pressure.

(Signed) Ouachita Wildlife Unit
W. H. Anders, Jr., President"

"I respectfully request that you do not change deer season as this would undermine sound game management practices regarding harvest of surplus deer advocated by your biologists. I remind you of your pledge at June '65 Alexandria open hearing re: political pressure.

(Signed) Wyatt Jackson, Vice-President
La. Wildlife Federation Inc."

"We hope our Governor will express his confidence in our biologists by supporting their recommendations concerning deer seasons or explain to the sportsmen how the Commission can survive without the cooperation of our parish and state officials.

(Signed) Ken Page, President
Tupawek Bowmen Archery Club
Monroe, La."

"We the La. Field Archery Assn. feel that the current hunting seasons and regulations were established to the best of your abilities and judgments following recommendations of your trained personnel and consideration for the La. hunters present and future. Therefore it is our firm conviction that any changes in said seasons and regulations be prompted by these same factors and these factors alone. Regret that I am unable to attend this hearing in behalf of the future of good game management and hunting in La.

(Signed) Jack E. Bell, President
La. Field Archers Assn."

"Please back up our biologists on doe season recommendation. Do not allow political pressure to alter in any way the regulations already published pertaining to Game Management Areas.

(Signed) Major Cliff Gaudet,
Lafayette National Guard "

After further discussion, on motion of Mr. A. J. Buquet, seconded by Mr. Fairchild, the following resolution was Unanimously adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission will make no changes in the deer hunting regulations for 1965-66 as previously scheduled.

On motion of Mr. Buquet, seconded by Mr. Kyle, the meeting adjourned.



J. D. Hair Jr., Director and Secretary